

**CITY OF MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE**

Edward A. Flynn, Chief of Police

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**MILWAUKEE POLICE, DA ANNOUNCE TASK FORCE INVESTIGATING
MATCHING DNA IN HOMICIDES**

One person's DNA has been linked to seven homicide victims over a 21-year period, Milwaukee Police Chief Edward A. Flynn and Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm said Monday, May 18, 2009. The two announced a task force formed among the Milwaukee Police Department's Cold Case Squad, Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, FBI and the state Division of Criminal Investigation.

The unknown DNA was found on the bodies of seven women; six prostitutes and one female who was a runaway who was involved in the drug trade. The homicides occurred between 1986 and 2007 on Milwaukee's north side.

Six of the victims were women who were working as prostitutes – high-risk behavior that makes them vulnerable to crime. The seventh victim was involved in drug use and sales, also putting her at high risk for becoming a crime victim. The suspect's DNA was found on Payne, but Milwaukee Police do not believe he killed her, rather, we believe he had sex with her and she was killed by different suspect.

“Continuing advances in DNA technology have enabled us to link these homicide cases. In the past, we may have linked them by theory but theory has given way to science,” Flynn said. “As technology has evolved, so have our methods of investigating homicides.”

Advances in DNA have brought cases to light in Los Angeles, Mesa, Ariz. and Las Vegas. All have unsolved patterns of murdered prostitutes linked by DNA. Milwaukee Police have compared its suspect DNA to the national databank and found these cases are not related to Milwaukee's. The suspect apparently has been able to evade law enforcement for 23 years. It does not appear that he has been arrested for a felony as he does not appear in any database.

As evidence that Milwaukee Police have submitted and resubmitted to the Wisconsin Regional Crime Lab comes back, we may be linking additional homicides to this DNA profile. We already have determined that five suspects in murders of other prostitutes – completely unrelated to this investigation – have been identified because their DNA match open homicide cases. Three of them already are in prison for cleared homicides of prostitutes.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Milwaukee Police Department Cold Case Squad at **414-935-1212** or use the anonymous tips section of our Website at www.milwaukee.gov/police

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